

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-6 and add new claims 7-12 in lieu thereof, as follows:

Claims 1-6 (canceled).

7. (new): A linear actuator for control of a valve, including a motor portion (2) and an actuator device portion (3) comprising a rotatable member (9) provided with a threaded portion (10) matching the threaded portion (12) of a linear displacement threaded bolt (11), the rotatable member being supported by bearings (15, 16) and drivable in rotation by the motor portion, characterised in that the linear actuator further includes an axially compressible coil spring (19) mounted in a compressed state between a valve head (37) arranged at an end of the threaded bolt (11) and a casing of the actuator, the threaded portion (10) of the threaded bolt comprising at least one thread arranged at an angle  $\alpha$  relative to a plane orthogonal to the axial direction of motion of the threaded bolt, where the characteristic  $\tan(\alpha)$  is greater than the friction coefficient  $\mu$  between the threaded bolt and the rotatable member so that the threaded bolt is reversible.

8. (new): An actuator according to claim 7, wherein the threaded portion of the threaded bolt includes at least two threads.

9. (new): An actuator according to claim 7, wherein the coil spring is mounted outside the actuator and around a cover portion (13) which forms part of the casing of the actuator.

10. (new): An actuator according to claim 7, further including a partition wall (4) separating the motor portion from the actuator device portion and having a wall portion extending in an air gap (8) between the motor portion and the rotatable member of the actuator portion, the partition wall being also a structural component enabling assembly and position of the motor portion and the actuator portion.

11. (new): An actuator according to claim 10, wherein the casing of the actuator includes a cover (13) comprising an actuator bearing portion, wherein the rotatable member, bearings and cover (13) are insertable axially into a cavity formed by the partition wall (4), the cover (13) being force-fitted into a matching cavity of the partition wall (4).

12. (new): An actuator according to claim 11, wherein the actuator includes a body portion (14) provided at an end of the rotatable member distal from the cover (13) and comprising a bearing portion (16), wherein said body portion (14) is axially insertable into the partition wall (4) to abut axially against the partition wall, via elastic means (26).

Respectfully submitted,

By: Cliff W. Browning

Clifford W. Browning

Reg. No. 32,201

Woodard, Emhardt et al. LLP

Bank One Center/Tower

111 Monument Circle, Suite 3700

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-5137

(317) 634-3456

#342492